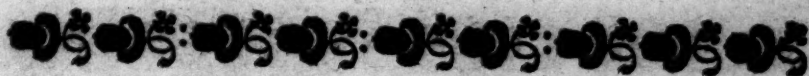


A
L E T T E R
T O

T--- *P----*, Esq;

FROM
The AUTHOR of *S I R I S*.



LETTER

TO THE

MEMBERS OF THE

A

LETTER

TO

THE

FROM

THE AUTHOR OF

TO THE

TO THE

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MIDCIVIL

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A
L E T T E R

Berkley (G) bishop of Cloyne
T-----P----, Esq;

FROM THE
AUTHOR of S I R I S.
CONTAINING SOME
FARTHER REMARKS on the VIRTUES of
T A R - W A T E R,

AND
The METHODS for Preparing and Using of it.

Non sibi, sed toti.

To which is added,
An A N S W E R

To a supposed Physician's LETTER to the Right
Reverend the Bishop of CLOYNE, occasioned by
his Lordship's Treatise on the VIRTUES of
TAR-WATER.

DUBLIN Printed,
L O N D O N Re-printed,
For M. COOPER, at the Globe in Pater-noster-row.
MDCCXLIV.
[Price Six-pence.]

LETTER

TO

My dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

J. R. V.

46

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105

Among the great numbers who
have been in Dublin your
letter has been received and
make in the office of the
Water as generally used as possible
which I would have up from Rules and Re-
marks in a small Compendium which according
y I here send you



II

A
L E T T E R

T O
T--- P---, Esq;

FROM

The AUTHOR of *S I R I S*.

I.

AMONG the great Numbers, who drink Tar Water in *Dublin*, your Letter informs me, there are several, that make or use it in an undue Manner. To obviate those Inconveniences, and render this Water as generally useful as possible, you desire I would draw up some Rules and Remarks in a small Compass, which accordingly I here send you.

/B

II.

II.

Put a Gallon of cold Water to a Quart of Tar, stir and work them strongly together for about four Minutes; let the Vessel stand close covered for eight and forty Hours, that the Tar may subside; then pour off the clear Water, and keep it in Bottles, well corked, for Use: This is a good general Rule, but as Stomachs and Constitutions are so various, it may admit of some Latitude, the less Water or more stirring makes it stronger, as more Water or less stirring makes it weaker.

III.

The same Tar will not do so well a second Time, but may serve for common Uses: The putting off Tar that hath been used, for fresh Tar, would be a bad Fraud. To prevent which it is to be noted, that Tar already used is of a lighter brown than other Tar. The only Tar that I have used is that from our Northern Colonies in *America*, and that from *Norway*, the latter being thinner, mixeth easier with Water, and seems to have more Spirit. If the former be made use of (as I have sometimes known it with good Success) the Tar Water will require longer stirring to make it.

IV.

IV.

Tar Water, when right, is not paler than *French* nor deeper coloured than *Spanish White Wine*, and full as clear; if there be not a Spirit very sensibly perceived in drinking, you may conclude the Tar Water is not good; if you would have it good, you must see it made yourself. Those who begin with it, little and weak, may by Habit come to drink more and stronger, according to the Season, or the Humour of the Patient. It may be drank either cold or warm; it lays under no Restraint as to Air, Exercise, Cloaths, or Diet, and may be taken at all times in the Year.

V.

As to the Quantity in common chronical Indispositions, one Pint of Tar Water a Day may suffice, taken on an empty Stomach, at two or four Times, to wit, Night and Morning, and about two Hours after Dinner and Breakfast; more may be taken by strong Stomachs. Alteratives in general, taken in small Doses, and often, mix best with the Blood; how oft or how strong each stomach can bear, Experience will shew. But those who labour under great and inveterate Maladies, must drink a greater Quantity, at least one Quart *per Diem*,

Diem, taken at four, six, or eight Glasses, as best suits the Circumstances and Case of the Drinker. All of this Class must have much Patience and Perseverance in the Use of this, as well as of all other Medicines, which, if sure and safe, must yet, from the Nature of Things, be slow in the Cure of inveterate Chronical Disorders. In acute Cases, Fevers of all Kinds, it must be drank in Bed warm, and in great Quantity, the Fever still enabling the Patient to drink, perhaps a Pint every Hour, which I have known to work surprising Cures.

VI.

As the Morning's Draught is most difficult to nice Stomachs, such may lessen, or even omit it, at the Beginning, or rather postpone it till after Breakfast, and take a larger Dose at Night; the Distance from Meal-time need not be more than one Hour, when the Stomach is strong, or the Glasses small: the Oil that swims on the Top, may either be drank with the rest of the Liquor, or skimmed off and kept for outward Sores. Whether there be any Difference between old Tar or new Tar, or which of all the various Tars, produced from different Trees, or in different Parts of the World, is most medicinal, future Trials must determine. — I have made a second Sort of Tar Water, to be used externally, as a Wash for the Itch, Scabs, Ulcers, Leprosy, and all such

such foul Cases, which I have tried with Success, and recommend it to the Trial of others. For inveterate Cases of that Kind, Tar Water should be drank, a Quart every Day, at six or eight Glasses ; and at the same time the Wash applied Outwardly, and warm, by bathing, fomenting, and steeping, to heal and dry up the Sores, and this several Times in the twenty-four Hours. This Water, for external Use, must be made in the following manner : Pour two Quarts of hot boiling Water on a Quart of Tar, stir and work it strongly with a flat Stick or Ladle, for a full quarter of an Hour ; let it stand eight Hours, then pour it off, and keep it close covered for Use. It may be made weaker or stronger as there is Occasion.

VII.

My Experiments have been made in various Cases, and on many Persons ; and I make no doubt its Virtues will soon be more fully discovered, as Tar-water is now growing into general Use, tho' not without that Opposition which usually attends upon Novelty. The great Objection I find made to this Medicine is, that it promises too much. What, say the Objectors, do you pretend to a Panacea, a thing strange, chimerical, and contrary to the Opinion and Experience of all Mankind. Now to speak out, and give this Objection or Question a direct Answer, I freely own that I suspect
Tar

Tar-water is a Panacea. I may be mistaken, but it is worth trial ; for the Chance of so great and general a Benefit, I am willing to stand the Ridicule of proposing it. And as the old Philosopher cried aloud, from the House-top, to his Fellow Citizens, *educate your Children* ; so, I confess, if I had a Situation high enough, and a Voice loud enough, I would cry out, to all the Valetudinarians upon Earth, *drink Tar Water*.

VIII.

Having thus frankly owned the Charge, I must explain to you, that by a Panacea is not meant a Medicine which cures all Individuals, (this consists not with Mortality) but a Medicine that cures or relieves all the different Species of Distempers. And if God hath given us so great a Blessing, and made a Medicine so cheap and plentiful as Tar, to be withal so universal in its Effects, to ease the Miseries of human Life, shall Men be ridiculed or bantered out of its Use, especially when they run no Risque in the Trial ?

IX.

It must be owned I have not had Opportunities of trying it myself in all Cases, neither will I undertake to demonstrate *a priori*,

priori, that Tar Water is a Panacea. But yet, methinks, I am not quite destitute of probable Reasons, which, joined to what Facts I have observed, induced me to entertain such a Suspicion.

X.

I know Tar was used to preserve Cattle from Contagion; and this may be supposed to have given Rise to that Practice of drinking Tar Water for a Preservative against the Small-Pox. But as the Tar Water used for that Purpose was made by mixing equal Quantities of Tar and Water, it proved a most offensive Portion; besides, as a fresh Glass of Water was put in for each Glass that was taken out, and this for many Days on the same Tar, it followed that the Water was not equally impregnated with the fine volatile Spirit, though all alike strongly saturated with gross Particles.

XI.

Having found this nauseous Draught very useful against the Small Pox, to as many as could be prevailed on to take it; I began to consider the Nature of Tar. I reflected that Tar is a Balsam flowing from the Trunks of aged Ever-greens; that it re-

sists

sists Putrefaction ; that it hath the Virtues of Turpentine, which in Medicine are known to be very great and manifold ; but I observed withal, that Turpentine or Balsams are very offensive in the taking : I therefore considered distinctly the several constituent Parts of Balsams ; which were those, wherein the medicinal Virtues resided, and which were to be regarded, rather as a Viscous Matrix to receive, arrest, and retain the more volatile and active Particles. And if these last could be so separated and disengaged from the grosser Parts, as to impregnate a clear and potable Liquor, I concluded that such Liquor must prove a Medicine of great Force, and general Use. I considered, that Nature was the best Chemist and Preparer of Medicines, and that the Fragrance and Flavour of Tar argued very active Qualities and Virtues.

XII.

I had, of a long Time, entertained an Opinion agreeable to the Sentiments of many antient Philosophers, *That Fire may be regarded as the Animal Spirit of this visible World.* And it seemed to me that the attracting and secreting of this Fire in the various Pores, Tubes, and Ducts of Vegetables, did impart their specifick Virtues to each Kind ; that this same Light, or Fire, was the
immediate

immediate instrumental or physical Cause of Sense and Motion, and consequently of Life and Health to Animals; that on Account of this Solar Light or Fire, *Phæbus* was in the ancient Mythology reputed the God of Medicine Which Light as it is leisurely introduced, and fixed in the viscid Juice of old Firs and Pines, so the setting it free in Part, that is, the changing its viscid for a volatile Vehicle, which may mix with Water, and convey it throughout the Habit copiously and inoffensively, would be of infinite Use in Physic, extending to all Cases whatsoever, inasmuch as all Distempers are in Effect a Struggle, between the *Vis Vitæ* and the peculiar Miasma or Fomes Morbi; and nothing strengthens Nature, or lends such Aid and Vigour to Life, as a Cordial which doth not heat.

XIII.

The Solar Light in great Quantity during the Space of many successive Years, being attracted and detained in the Juice of antient Ever-greens, doth form and lodge itself in an Oil so fine and volatile, as shall mix well with Water, and lightly pass the *Primæ Viæ*, and penetrate every Part and Capillary of the original System, when once exempt and freed from the grosser nauseous Refin. It will not, therefore, seem unreasonable, to whoever is acquainted

acquainted with the medicinal Virtues of Turpentine in so many different Distempers, for which it hath been celebrated both by ancient and modern Physicians, and withal reflects on the Nausea or Clog that prevents their full Operation and Effect on the human Body, it will not, I say, seem unreasonable to such a one to suppose, that if this same Clog were removed, numberless Cures might be wrought in great Variety of Cases.

XIV.

The *Desideratum* was, how to separate the active Particles from the heavy viscid Substance which served to attract and retain them, and so to order Matters, that the Vehicle of the Spirit should not on the one hand be volatile enough to escape, nor on the other, gross enough to offend. For the performing of this, I have found a most easy, simple, and effectual Method, which furnisheth a potable inoffensive Liquor, clear and fine as the best White Wine, Cordial and Stomachic, to be kept bottled, as being endued with a very sensible Spirit, though not fermented.

XV.

I tried many Experiments as to the Quantity of Water, and the Time of stirring and standing,

standing, in order to impregnate and clarify it, and, after all, fixed on the forementioned Receipt, as the most generally useful for making this salutiferous Liquor well impregnated, and not offensive to common Stomachs, and even drank with Pleasure by many: In which the most medicinal and active Particles, that is to say, the native Salts, Spirit, and volatile Oil, being disentangled from the gross Oil and viscous Resin, can freely pass the *Primæ Viæ*, insinuate themselves into the smallest Ducts, and pervade the whole animal Machine, and that, in such full Proportion and Measure, as suiteth every Case and Constitution.

XVI.

The foregoing general Considerations put me upon making Experiments in many various and unlike Cases, which otherwise I should never have thought of doing, and the Success answered my Hopes. Philosophical Principles led me to make safe Trials, and on those Trials is founded my Opinion of the salutary Virtues of Tar Water; which Virtues are recommended from, and depend on, Experiments and Matters of Fact, and neither stand nor fall with any Theories or speculative Principles whatever. Howbeit, those Theories, as I said, enlarged my Views of this Medicine, led me to a greater Variety

of Trials, and thereby engendered and nourished my Suspicion, that it is a Panacea. I have been the more prolix in these Particulars, hoping that, to as many as shall candidly weigh and consider them, the high Opinion I conceive of this Medicine will not seem altogether an Effect of vain Prepossession or blind empiric Rashness, but rather the Result of free Thought and Inquiry, and grounded on my best Reason, Judgment, and Experience.

XVII.

Those who have only the Good of Mankind at Heart, will give this Medicine fair play; if there be any who act from other Motives, the Public will look sharp and beware. To do Justice to Tar Water, as well as to those who drink it, Regard must be had to the particular Strength and Case of the Patients. Grievous or inveterate Maladies must not be treated as common Cases. I cured a horrible Case, a Gangrene in the Blood, which had broke out in several Sores, and threatened speedy Death, by obliging the Person to drink nothing but this Liquor for several Weeks, as much and as often as his Stomach would bear. Common Sense will direct a proportionable Conduct in other Cases. But this must be left to the Conscience

science and Discretion of the Givers and
Takers.

XVIII.

After all that can be said, it is most certain, that a Panacea sounds odd, and conveys somewhat shocking to the Ear and Sense of most Men, who are wont to rank the universal Medicine with the Philosophers Stone, and the Squaring of the Circle ; whereof the chief, if not sole Reason, I take to be, that it is thought incredible, the same Thing should produce contrary Effects, as it must do, if it cures opposite Distempers. And yet this is no more than every Day's Experience verifies. Milk, for instance, makes some costive, and others laxative : This regards the Possibility of a Panacea in general ; as for Tar Water in particular, I do not say it is a Panacea, I only suspect it to be so. — Time and Trial will shew.

XIX.

But I am most sincerely persuaded from what I have already seen and tryed, that Tar Water may be drank with great Safety and Success, for the Cure or Relief of most, if not all Diseases, of Ulcers, Itch, Scald-heads, Leprosy, the foul Disease, and all foul Cases, Scurvies of all Kinds, Disorders of the Lungs, Stomach,

Stomach, and Bowels, gouty and nephritic Ailments, Pleurifies, Peripneumonies, Erysipelas, and all Kinds of Fevers, Hysterical and all nervous Cases, Dropsies, Decays, and other Maladies; nor is it of Use only in the Cure of Sicknes, it is also useful to preserve Health, and guard against Infection, and, in some measure, even against old Age, as it gives lasting Spirits, and invigorates the Blood. I am even induced by the Nature and Analogy of Things, and its wonderful Success in Fevers of all Kinds, to think that Tar Water may be useful against the Plague, both as a Preservative and a Cure.

XX.

But I doubt no Medicine can withstand that execrable Plague of distilled Spirits, which all without Exception, (the Fire of the hot Still imparting a caustic and coagulating Quality to all distilled Spirits, whatever the Subject or Ingredients may be) operate as a slow Poison, preying on the Vitals, and wasting the Health and Strength of Body and Soul; which Pest of human Kind is, I am told, gaining Ground in this Country, already too thin of Inhabitants.



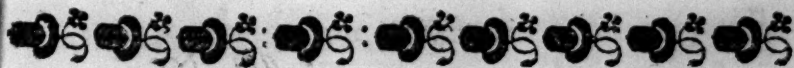
I am, &c.



REMARKS ON A LETTER

To the Right Reverend
The BISHOP of *CLOYNE*.

Occasioned by
His Treatise of TAR-WATER.



A. N. S. W. E. R.

L E T T E R S

The Bishop of Ceylon

L E T T E R



...had given a
...which from
...found to be of
...had a
...Right to be heard with respect to it, nor with
...Applying for the issue of a letter to the
...Bishop of Ceylon, has attacked him in a Man-
ner as much below the Character of a Gen-
eral as much below the Character of a Bishop to receive. It is
to say the least of it, a most unbecom-
ing to be with the utmost Freedom. He
compares him to a Greek, a boating bloater.

An Answer

With the preceding
Berkeley (G) Bishop of Cloyne
 A N

ANSWER TO A LETTER

To the Right Reverend

The BISHOP of CLOYNE.

Occasioned by

His Treatise of TAR-WATER.

WHEN a Gentleman had proposed a Medicine to the World, which from repeated Experience he had found to be of singular Efficacy, one would think he had a Right to be heard with Candour, if not with Applause. But the Author of a Letter to the Bishop of Cloyne, has attack'd him in a Manner as much below the Character of a Gentleman to offer, as a Bishop to receive. It is, to say the least of it, what the Author professes it to be, with the **UTMOST FREEDOM**. He compares him to a *Quack*, a *boasting Mounte-*

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bank,

bank, Dr. *Salmon*, Dr. *Rock*, the *Devil* (a). Himself the World will probably guess to be a Physician. A *thorough bred Man*, no doubt; and, I suppose, the great Point he has in view is to lie half discovered, half concealed, ready to be called forth from his present Obscurity into Practice, when he has raised a Character by demolishing a Writer of Eminence.

But *Physician* as he supposes the World will take him to be, I much doubt whether it may not give to the Bishop, even in *that Respect*, the Preference. To make a Science a *Nostrum*, is as *quackish* as to make a Medicine one. Knowledge is open to every Man of Sense and Application; and has the Bishop shewn his Want of either in his Study of Physic, tho' it is not more immediately his Profession? How frequently have Physicians turn'd Divines? where is the Absurdity for a Divine to become a Physician? Is the Pale of Physic only so narrow that it admits of no Interlopers? What then does this *Gentleman* mean, when he tells us (b), *the principal Points of Knowledge necessary to a Physician, are NATURALLY wanting*

(a) ' There is, my Lord, another Being (whom I have
' have more Reverence than to name in your Lordship's
' Company, and whose Actions, nothing but the *perfect*
' *Justice* and *Equality* of the *Allusion* can atone for my
' mentioning with your Lordship's) who can cite Scripture
' for his Purpose.' *Letter*, p. 27.

(b) Page 36.

in a Divine? Alas ! it is not the Degree, or the Robe, the tye Wig, or the Gold-headed Cane, that makes the Physician, any more than Prunella the Parson. But the Knowledge of either may be concealed under every Habit, and the seven Sciences contained without a College Title.

Need I produce Authority or Example for this? the two great Names of *Bacon* and *Boyle* will be lasting Monuments, that the Knowledge of Physic is not confined to those of the Profession only.

But the Letter-Writer says (c), He cannot guess, from any Part of the Bishop's Treatise, that he ever made *Physic* his Study. Many others say, he talks as rationally of it as those that have. This Author himself observes (d), That he has searched the Books of Physicians for Histories of Diseases, and to find out the peculiar Properties of Medicines; no small Part of a Physician's Learning, as much, I believe, as many an one sets up on. But because the Bishop has applied it to the magnifying his favourite Medicine, this Author will not allow him to have made any Improvement from his Researches.

Will it be said, that Physic has eluded his Labours, because the Theory of it is more

extensive than any other? The World has generally judged very differently. And, if we consider how sacredly the Avenues to this Science are guarded, by mysteriously prescribing Things unknown in an unknown Tongue, how it is conversant with Mankind in its weakest State, when the Mind is drooping, and catches at any Thing that promises Relief, the whole Faculty ought with *Humility* and *Thankfulness* to acknowledge the Reputation the World has given them. Nay, I would appeal to this very Writer, whether he is not persuaded, that even a regular Physician's Practice does not depend more on his Address to the Whims and Foibles of his Patients, than his real Skill in his Profession. I ask this, when he has compar'd his own Merit with his Practice. I know his *natural* Pride will extort from him what his *artificial* Pride would tempt him to conceal.

To *Sense* and *Study* has not the Bishop join'd *Experience*? Experience founded on his own unbounded Generosity to the Poor, itself an Hospital without adventitious Subscriptions. And is he not to be believ'd, when he tells us, without Fee or Reward, he has known, frequently known, after repeated Trials, upon various Constitutions, his Medicine prove successful? The Letter-Writer says the Facts were all (d) *misunderstood*, and endeavours to prove from Theory, that (e) *Tar*

Water is no Medicine, something HARDLY worth the Name of one, and that it can cure no one Disease. Nay, to make sure Work, and to be as far in one Extreme as the Bishop in the other, That it can do no Good (*f*), but may do Harm. He assures us *Cold Water poured on Tar can take none, not the least of its Medicinal Virtues* : That, if we ask the Chemist, he will tell us, "Oil cannot be mix'd with, or drawn forth by Cold Water." Now in Obedience to this Gentleman I have ask'd the Chemist, and he tells me, that some of the *Virtues of the Oil of Tar may be drawn forth by Cold Water.* And I have actually tasted Water, wherein the Oil of Tar was washed (two Ounces to a Pint) strongly imbued with its Virtues, and which had much the same Taste with Water wherein the Oil of *Benzoin* was washed. In Analyzing Tar there are found to come over some fine Flowers, so quick with the Oil that they cannot be separated, which may be communicated to Water. And it is well known, all Acids will imbibe some Part of the Flowers, or finest Part of the Oil of all Resinous Substances. As it may afford some Satisfaction to the Letter-Writer, and enable others to determine more particularly the Virtues of Tar, I shall set down the Product of 22 Pound of the best Norway Tar by two Retorts; viz.

		lib.	3
Acid Spirit	— —	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oil	— —	7	13
Pitch	— —	12	14
			— —
		21	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Loft	— —		2 $\frac{1}{2}$
			— —

22

After *Theory* the Letter-Writer proceeds to prove that Tar Water can do no good, from *Experience*. Here then, let Issue be joined, and from one Assertion, which all the World may judge of, let this Writer's Credit stand or fall: — *Crimine ab uno — Disce omnes.*

He saies, Of this Medicine's Power of doing Harm, we have too many Proofs, if we could overlook the Fatigues of the Physicians and Apothecaries unable to go through the Load of Business and the visible Increase in the Bills of Mortality! The Fatigues of Physicians! His own, I suppose, included in that Number, in the midst of which it was Excess of Good Nature to find Time to write so long a Pamphlet. The Increase in the Bills of Mortality! To them then let us go: The Bishop's Book was publish'd in England I think, about the Middle of April: The Medicine recommended in it came into greatest Vogue about the beginning of June, and the Bills of Mortality stand thus:

1744, June 5	Christened	237	buried	357
	Decreased	78		
12	Christened	316		390
	Increased	33		
19	Christened	231		367
	Decreased	23		

So that, we see, after all this mighty Parade about the Bills of Mortality, they were lowest, when Tar Water was in its highest Repute; or, take which Period you please, afterwards for its Season, before this Author's Book appeared, the Alteration was inconsiderable; increased the next Week 33, and decreased again 23. Such abundant Reason had he to set out with a Maxim which he learnt from his own Experience more than universal Consent, *That Truth and Partiality are inconsistent.*

After these Specimens of his Skill in the *Nature of Medicines* and of his Faithfulness in the *History of Cases*, he may charge the Bishop with Deficiency in both Particulars, and please himself with the Thoughts, that the World will probably *guess himself to be a Physician.* I leave him and it in the quiet Possession of that Satisfaction.

The rest of his Letter is chiefly taken up in Mirth and Pastime; he *plays the Doctor*, as he calls it, and throws out plenty of Jokes to gather the Crowd together, and help off a Six-penny Packet. — He describes the Witty Reflections of the Company he kept, — or such as he has made for them.

Take a Specimen of the Weak Defender of the Bishop, and of the acute Opponent: *Come says another with a World of important Nothing in his Look, the Bishop is a Man of sound Learning, I avouch it, and I have read — And what then, says another [the Letter-Writer,] his Knowledge is borrowed from the Writings of other Men(g). I wonder how this Author got his: I fancy, as Serjeant Kite, saies, he came into the World of his own Head.*

Another witty Observer saies, the Bishop has *serv'd his Medicine just as Pope serv'd him, by giving it ev'ry Virtue under Heaven upon which the Author notes: — unless it be true, what some Poople say, That he never praised any Body, but with an INTENT that the World should construe it into something more bitter then his severest Raillery (n).*

(g) Page 11. (n) Ibid.

Great and Generous, thus with a single Stroke to destroy the general Character of an absent Bishop, and a Poet just cold in his Grave! But as the Discovery is wonderful, it ought not to be concealed; and there is less Reason to expect it should, because it carries its own Reward with it. For this Author and his Friends will go on to construe the rest of the Works of that great Genius backwards, and for the Comfort of their Party invert the *Dunciad* into a serious Panegyric. Thus for finding out the *Intention* of the Poet, they shall be blessed with their own Delusion, and call their's, the World's Construction. I have heard a Story of a Hero in *Bedlam*, who told a like secret to his Friend that it was the World abroad which was really *mad*, they within were only reputed to be so; it was so they *construed* among one another, however others might *misconstrue* them?

That he may still keep his Hand in at *playing the Doctor*, he examines carefully the very Excrements of the Bishop's Book, the *Index*. No wonder; it was in Search of a Medicine for a *Cough*, and why should not Tar and Honey be found where *Album Græcum* is, a Medicine of no very different Purpose? But the Difficulty is, How Tar and Honey came there, since it is not in the *Body* of the Book. I will not pretend to account for the *Phænomenon*, but

E

shall

shall only observe almost as odd an one in this Writer's Letter. As an Instance how the Sense of Words may be perverted, he tells us a Story of great Effects (a) produced by a trifling Alteration in the Pointing. "Instead of *Cain's* saying, "*I have kill'd a Man* with a Colon at the End, which makes it a Confession of Guilt, "only write it thus, *I have kill'd a Man.*" Where is the Difference? This Story, it seems, made him *wonder*, when he heard it, and it makes the Reader *stare*, when he reads it. It should be, I suppose, *Have I killed a Man?* But when he tells us how the same Blunder came to stand in his second Edition, as well as in his first, we may find out perhaps how *Tar and Honey* came to be in the *Index* only.

The Bishop having illustrated how Acids are sheathed by Alkalies from a Simile of Spigots and Faucets, this Author's Modesty is much offended at it. Hail! *Woodward* lives! I cannot but admire, saies he, *the perfect Decency of your Lordship's Manner, your excellent Cleanliness as well as Delicacy in Similes.* Which reminds me of the Lady that could not bear a Chapter of hard Names for Fear there should be somewhat immodest in them.

But it is not enough that he cut down the Bishop in Physic, unless he makes Reprisals

(a) Page 28.

upon

upon him in Divinity. He charges him with making the Scriptures serve the Turn of his Philosophy by new Translations, and even where there was no need of it. This, I suppose, alludes to §. 179. where the Bishop observes that the Passage in the Psalms, *who maketh his Ministers a flaming Fire*, might as well be rendered, and more agreeably to the Context, *who maketh flaming Fire his Ministers*. If it is more agreeable to the Context, why will this Author say, *There was no need of the Alteration*? And, as to the Charge of Novelty, there is scarce a Commentator but gives the Passage the same Construction, tho' they have nothing to do with the Bishop's Hypothesis. Without a Pomp of Quotations, I recommend only to this Author's Polite Taste, *Buchanan's* Version; or, if that is more suitable to it, *Sternhold and Hopkins*.

Apparent accinctæ AURAE FLAMMAEQUE ministræ.

In the same Place he saies, *I shall only commemorate to your Lordship's Honour as a Bishop, that you can soften Atheism into Misconstruction*. Ay, and this very Lordship be honours and respects, AS A BISHOP, whom as a Physician he despises. It is plain, his personal Charity is as great as his publick Zeal, which could prompt him to confute an Author, half dead as he was with the Fatigues of Practice which that very Author had helped him to.

But how has his Lordship been guilty of lessening Atheism? Why he has vindicated, it seems, *Aristotle* and some other Philosophers from that Imputation, by shewing how their Principles have been mistaken. Atheism the Bishop leaves just what it was; but shews those venerable Sages did not come within the Verge of it. Where is the Harm? If we will not take them as Partners of our Natural Cr  ed, another Set of Men will be proud of them. Here our Author's Zeal gets the better of his Charity, and he betrays a little of that unsociable Temper by which he excluded the Clergy from the College of Physicians, some of whom, I am persuaded, cure more than many a Licentiate. From the same Turn of Mind he seems proud to characterise himself at parting, when he lets the Bishop know what he should have done to have prevented the Attacks of so formidable an Adversary: Then, saies he, *(b) No carping Wit or sour Philosopher would have dared to have blamed you.*

(b) Page 37.



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